



Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
Time: 9:00a.m.-3:30p.m. Registration Begins at 7:45a.m.  
Where: Delaware State University  
Martin Luther King Student Center  
1200 North DuPont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901

The Delaware Independent Living Program invites current and former foster youth ages 14 years and older to attend the event. Please complete the following online registration information by Wednesday, August 1, 2018.

\*Young Adults active in the Independent Living Program please fill out the Youth registration, even if you are above age 18. Thank you.

**Anyone who is not registered will not be permitted to attend.**



❖ **Keynote Speaker: Rodney Walker- The Power of Perseverance:  
From Foster Care to Yale University**

**Description:** Rodney's inspiring personal journey growing up in foster care on Chicago's south side, to becoming an award-winning entrepreneur and graduating from Yale University; all before the age of 25.

**Biography:**

Rodney Walker, a Chicago native, is an author, educator, and entrepreneur that travels both nationally and internationally, speaking at schools, corporations, and conferences about the importance of character education, youth entrepreneurship, and trauma-informed mentorship aimed to uplift and support at-risk youth. Given the obstacles placed before him as a foster child, Rodney struggled academically and socially in school. In his early years of elementary school, he was placed in special education, repeated the fourth grade due to poor academic performance, and underperformed with a sub-1.5 GPA in his Freshman year of high school. Through trauma-informed mentorship and education, Walker overcame these adverse experiences and redirected his path. Today, he is an award-winning entrepreneur, and went on to graduate with degrees from Morehouse College and Yale University - all before the age of 25.

Rodney is the bestselling Author of the educational memoir titled "A New Day One: Trauma, Grace, and a Young Man's Journey from Foster Care to Yale", available on Amazon and in all major bookstores nationwide. This past spring, Walker obtained his Master's in Education degree from Harvard University.

**a. Morning Workshops**

**i. PAWS for People™**

PAWS for People™ is a nonprofit organization committed to providing therapeutic visits to any person in the community who would benefit from interaction with a well-trained, loving pet. Whether it be helping a child with autism learn new social skills, aiding with physical therapy, comforting a hospice patient, distracting someone during chemotherapy treatment, assisting a struggling reader, or being a familiar reminder to an Alzheimer's patient, a visit from a PAWS' pet therapy team makes a difference!

PAWS volunteers along with their four-legged therapy companions will share the mission of PAWS for People and the impact their visits have on the community.

**ii. Mind Over Money**

The purpose of this workshop is to "plant a money seed" in the participants minds and teach them the skills to grow their own "money tree." Saving, budgeting, credit, and wise decision-making to be introduced using a variety of games, tools, and discussion.

**iii. It's All About the DMs: A Workshop about Decision Making**

We all make decisions based upon our immediate thoughts and feelings. Often times it is not the decision would have made if we had just a little time to think things over. Through interactive activities and guided conversations, participants will be provided tips on how to make intentional decisions about sex, relationships and reproductive health.

**iv. Capitol One Career Workshop**

Learn about professionalism, the interviewing process, and how to set yourself up for success in your career.

Participants will learn how to build up their resume skills and discuss how to find a career path that is right for them.

**b. Afternoon Workshops**

**i. Delaware State Housing Authority Presentation**

The Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) currently administers two separate programs aimed at providing housing for youth existing foster care and families that have children that are in danger of being placed into foster care/or need housing to get children out of foster care. The first program is federally funded under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Family Unification Program (FUP). The second program is funded by the State of Delaware under the State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP). The presentation by DSHA will outline the eligibility requirements, referral and application process, issuance of vouchers, searching for eligible living units, and requirements for continuing assistance. Independent Living Transitional Living provider staff will be at the workshop to provide information about their programs and how to become DSHA voucher-ready.

**ii. Energy Efficiency**

This session will provide participants with basic knowledge of weatherization tips that can be completed without the assistance from professionals and ways to conserve energy in order to potentially reduce high utility bills. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion with the facilitator during this workshop. Participants will also learn what a Community Energy Center is and how it helps low-income families.